

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-21, 24-27, and 29-42 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claim 1 has been amended as shown on page 2 of the Reply. In addition, claims 22 and 23 have been canceled.

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Buchanan for the courtesies extended on September 8, 2009. The Examiner was contacted telephonically to discuss the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-23 under 35 U.S.C. §101. More particularly, a proposed amendment to independent claim 1 was presented to the Examiner.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-23 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-4 and 6-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Pursuant to the aforementioned telephonic conversation, independent claim 1 has been amended herein. As a result, claims 22 and 23 have been canceled. Such amendments and cancelations place the subject claims within the bounds of statutory subject matter in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §101.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation that claims 24-27 and 29-42 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ATTWP280USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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